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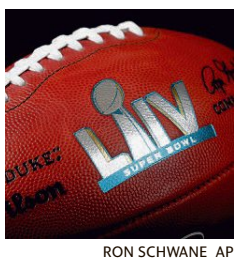
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VIRGINIA BRIDGES vbridges@newsobserver.com

Samanther Crowder reaches for something for her 5-month-old baby as her son Jayden Crowder, 12, plays on his phone waiting for his ride to school on Monday.

# McDougald Terrace residents navigate lives from hotel

BY VIRGINIA BRIDGES AND MARTHA QUILLIN
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DURHAM

Samanther Crowder faced another week with her five children spread over two hotel rooms.

At 6:10 a.m. Monday, she dressed, left the room she shared with her 9-year-old and 5-month-old, and knocked on the door of the room around the corner where her three other children, ages 12 to 20, slept.

It was time to wake 12-year-old Jayden for school.

"Like, open the door. Get up," she called out. "So I'm sure you are up before I walk away."

About 280 families from the McDougald Terrace public housing community have now been living in a dozen local hotels and motels for nearly one month. The Durham Housing Authority started evacuating them over carbon monoxide concerns Jan. 3 and announced this week they could remain in the hotels until mid-February.

The hotel is safe, Crowder said, and residents don't have to worry about the shootings that frequent the McDougald Terrace area east of downtown.

But they have had to deal with uncertain transportation, not knowing where their next meal will come from and their kids not having a place to play.

They miss the comforts of home: everyone in the same apartment, personal space, a full kitchen, a trusted neighbor to watch the children while they run to the store. And they worry about returning to the 1950s housing complex without DHA fully fixing the gas leaks and other problems like mold, water spots in ceilings and roaches.

"I miss the essence of a home," Crowder said. "I don't

SEE MCDOUGALD , 7A

# Teacher turnover rate in NC drops as fewer quit

BY T. KEUNG HUI
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RALEIGH

Fewer teachers are quitting from North Carolina public schools, at the same time that some educators are considering holding a statewide strike this year to lobby for higher pay and Medicaid expansion.

The state's newest annual teacher turnover report shows that the percentage of teachers who've resigned or retired has dropped for at least three years in a row.

Republican legislative leaders say the report shows how pay raises that have elevated North Carolina to the 29th highest average teacher salary in the nation are paying off.

"We want every North Carolina teacher to stay and succeed in our state, so we are encouraged by the positive impacts of the General Assembly's commitment to education priorities like lowering student class sizes, providing seven consecutive teacher pay raises, and improving school safety on every campus," House Speaker Tim Moore said in a statement Thursday.

Mark Jewell, the president of the N.C. Association of Educators, was not immediately available for comment Thursday morning. NCAE has been a vocal critic of the Republican-led General Assembly.

The state Department of Public Instruction is required to report annually on teacher

SEE TEACHERS , 2A

AP

Chief Justice John Roberts refused a question Thursday submitted by Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., that would reveal the whistleblower's name.

# Trump trial edges toward vote, maybe a decision

BY LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER AND ZEKE MILLER
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON

Senate jurors peppered President Donald Trump's defenders and accusers with final questions at his impeachment trial Thursday ahead of a crucial vote on calling witnesses. The focus shifted from details of the charges to whether it was time to simply acquit Trump and conclude the trial.

The vote on witnesses, expected Friday, could lead to an abrupt end of the trial. Or, less likely, it could bring weeks of additional argument.

Thursday's testimony included soaring pleas to the senators who will decide Trump's fate, to either stop a president who Democrats said tried to cheat in the 2016 election and will again, or to shut down impeachment proceedings that Republicans insisted were never more than a partisan attack.

"Let's give the country a trial they can be proud of," said Rep. Adam Schiff, the lead prosecutor for House Democrats. Americans, he said, know what it takes for a fair trial and won't stand for anything less.

Trump attorney Eric Herschmann countered that Democrats are only prosecuting the presi-

SEE IMPEACH , 2A

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